

## REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested. In this response, Claims 1, 13-14, and 26 have been amended, and no claims have been cancelled or added. Amendments to the claims are made to more clearly articulate the subject matter to which Applicant desires patent protection. Claims 1-9, 13-22, and 26 are currently pending in this application.

## **THE CLAIM REJECTIONS**

Claims 1-2, 4-9, 13-15, 17-22, and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,687,733 by Manukyan et al. ("*Manukyan*"). Claims 3 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious in view of *Manukyan* and U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0178254 by Brittenham et al. ("*Brittenham*").

The Applicant respectfully traverses.

## **THE PENDING CLAIMS ARE PATENTABLE OVER THE CITED ART**

Each of the pending claims recites at least one element that is not disclosed, taught, or suggested by the cited art, either individually or in combination.

### Independent Claim 1

With regard to independent Claim 1, there is recited:

In a process comprising at least one activity, a computer implemented method for performing an activity, comprising:

**an application proxy** receiving a message, from a process management engine, to perform an activity which calls for invocation of a service provided by a service application, said service being invocable using a protocol, and said service, when invoked, provides one or more results of performing said service;

**the application proxy** obtaining a service definition for said service, wherein the service definition comprises mapping information that maps one or more attributes associated with said activity to one or more parameters used by said service, wherein said service definition for said service comprises an indication that said protocol is to be used to invoke said service;

**the application proxy** selecting a first set of logic, from a plurality of sets of logic, based upon said indication in said service definition for said service, wherein said first set of logic implements said protocol;

**the application proxy** executing said first set of logic which implements said protocol to generate a service invocation, wherein said service invocation is generated based upon, at least a portion of, said mapping information in the service definition, and is in compliance with said protocol;

**the application proxy** sending said service invocation to said service application to invoke said service;

**the application proxy** receiving a reply from said service application which comprises said one or more results; and

**the application proxy** providing at least a portion of said one or more results to said process management engine to complete performance of said activity (emphasis added).

At least one of the above-recited elements of Claim 1 is not disclosed, taught, or suggested by *Manukyan*.

#### The approach of Claim 1

Claim 1 provides an advantageous method for performing an activity. According to Claim 1, a message to perform an activity that calls for the invocation of a service is received from a process management engine at an application proxy. The service, when invoked, provides one or more results of performing the service. A service definition for the service is obtained by the application proxy. The service definition comprises mapping information that maps one or more attributes associated with the activity to one or more parameters used by the service. The service definition for the service also comprises an indication that the protocol is to be used to invoke the service. A first set of logic is selected by the application proxy based on the indication in the service definition. The first set of logic implements the protocol. The first

set of logic is executed by the application proxy to generate a service invocation. The service invocation is generated based upon at least a portion of the mapping information in the service definition. The generated service invocation is sent by the application proxy to a service application to invoke the service. A reply, from the service application, which comprises the one or more results of performing the service, is received by the application proxy. At least a portion of the one or more results is provided by the application proxy to the process management engine to complete the performance of the activity.

By encapsulating the logic that maps one or more attributes associated with the activity to one or more parameters used by the service in the mapping information, when the requirements of the service change, the mapping information may be updated to reflect the requirements of the changed service without developing new code to support the invocation of the changed service. In this way, substantial time and effort for developing new code to support the changed service is avoided. Further, since the information contained in the service definition is fairly basic, in terms of substance and technical complexity, the service definition may be created by a relatively low-skilled end user, rather than a highly skilled technical specialist.

#### The approach of *Manukyan*

*Manukyan* is directed towards sharply contrasting subject matter than that featured in Claim 1. *Manukyan* discloses an approach for automatically configuring a client-server network. In *Manukyan*, a client communicates with an interactive server. The interactive server runs a server daemon to make a service available to the client. The server daemon is programmed to automatically configure configuration files of the interactive server to reflect account information associated with a client. In this way, the client may selectably add, remove, or

modify the services available from the server daemon by manipulating the account information in the configuration files of the interactive server (see Abstract).

The differences between Claim 1 and *Manukyan*

Applicant has amended Claim 1 to more clearly identify the role of the application proxy. Specifically, the application proxy performs each step recited in Claim 1. In sharp contrast, the Office Action cites the interactive server 44 of *Manukyan* to show some steps of Claim 1, but database server 76 is cited to show other steps of Claim 1. Unlike an application proxy as recited in Claim 1, no entity within *Manukyan* performs each step of Claim 1. Consequently, numerous elements recited in Claim 1 are not disclosed, taught, or suggested by *Manukyan*.

To illustrate, consider the following table:

Element of Claim 1	Entity whose actions are cited by the Office Action to show this element
an application proxy receiving a message...	interactive server 44
the application proxy obtaining a service definition...	interactive server 44
the application proxy selecting a first set of logic...	interactive server 44
the application proxy executing said first set of logic...	interactive server 44
the application proxy sending said service invocation...	database server 76
the application proxy receiving a reply	database server 76
the application proxy providing at least a portion of said one or more results...	database server 76

As shown above, while each element of Claim 1 is performed by a single entity, namely the application proxy, the Office Action cites the actions of multiple entities to show the above elements. Accordingly, *Manukyan* cannot be used by the Office Action to show Claim 1, as no single entity in *Manukyan* performs the actions of the application proxy as claimed in Claim 1.

Therefore, at least one element recited in Claim 1 is not disclosed, taught, or suggested by *Manukyan*. Consequently, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 1 is patentable over the cited art and is in condition for allowance.

Independent Claim 14 contains features similar to that discussed above with reference to Claim 1, except that Claim 14 is recited in computer-readable medium format. Consequently, it is respectfully submitted that for at least the reasons given above with respect to Claim 1, that Claim 14 is also patentable over the cited art and is in condition for allowance.

Claims 2-9, 13, 15-22, and 26 are dependent claims, each of which depends (directly or indirectly) on one of the claims discussed above. Each of Claims 2-9, 13, 15-22, and 26 is therefore allowable for the reasons given above for the claim on which it depends. In addition, each of Claims 2-9, 13, 15-22, and 26 introduces one or more additional limitations that independently render it patentable. However, due to the fundamental differences already identified, to expedite the positive resolution of this case a separate discussion of those limitations is not included at this time, although the Applicants reserve the right to further point out the differences between the cited art and the novel features recited in the dependent claims.

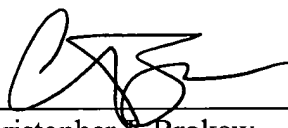
## CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and the issuance of a notice of allowance is respectfully requested. If there are any additional charges, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if the Examiner believes that such contact would be helpful in furthering the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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**Date: May 4, 2006**

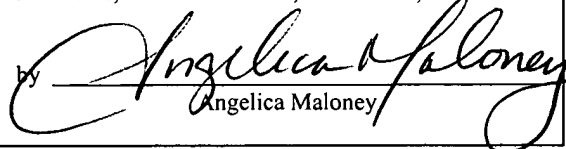
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on May 4, 2006

by

  
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